

EYES ONLY

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12 December 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

Bill:

STAT 1. I mentioned to you briefly on Wednesday morning that I had had a good and lengthy conversation with [] on the matter of a proposed professional association and, further, that I was meeting with a group of her colleagues that afternoon on the same issue. We have had our meeting, I find the results somewhat interesting, and I might even state I am beginning to feel a bit rewarded.

2. My constant theme in the meetings has been that I am speaking only for myself, that you are aware of the proposal but have taken no position, and that I would like to understand the need and explore alternatives. I agree with you that we cannot prevent such a development if there is a great drive for it; but I am still of the opinion there are alternatives which, at the best, will allow the desire of these well-motivated people to be met through other means and, at the least, will delay the establishment of such an association for some period of time. I believe I have found the clue.

3. I am convinced the individuals are well motivated and wish primarily to have some kind of a continuing forum where they can discuss professional and Agency-related matters and, additionally, would appreciate having some kind of a feedback mechanism to bring to the Agency's attention matters on which they have solid conviction. I am equally convinced they agree with my articulated position that the organization of a "professional association" could tend to create a cleavage in what, to a good degree, is an organization that does not cater to caste. They also agree with my concern that such an organization, regardless of motivation of founders, is susceptible in the future to being captured by dissidents and ending up in an adversary position with management. They claim, and I believe, neither to be grievance-oriented nor mesmerized with the sole function of management.

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4. The clue was found in two statements made by participants in the joint conversation. One was a desire for a "forum" and the other was a reference to the intellectual fermentation that took place in OTR-conducted settings, namely and primarily, the Senior Seminar and the Midcareer courses. Seizing on this, I proposed for their consideration to envision a situation where the newly created "Center for the Study of Intelligence" in the Office of Training would take their desire as a challenge and endeavor to develop a loosely-structured umbrella, under the Center's aegis, that could bring about the seminar or forum setting. I mentioned that the Center, by definition, itself would be rather a loosely-structured entity, and one of its motivations was to bring about more intellectual fermentation within our family. In this connection, I direct your attention to the last sentence of the second paragraph in the attached Headquarters Notice announcing the establishment of the Center. I would envision the participating employees to be almost equally responsible for the development of seminar content and the resultant papers. The Center could both accomplish some of the needed administrative mechanics but in a loose and general way also could offer guidance and perhaps establish some goals. It also could ease the feedback factor and, in general, could itself benefit from this seminar or forum in meeting its own objectives.

5. The representatives do appear at the moment to believe this approach may well meet their desires and gave evidence of putting the thought positively forward to others in their circle. I, in turn, have committed myself to discuss and urge this matter on Al Rodriguez and [redacted] the recently selected Director of the Center. We have mutually agreed to meet again in two or three weeks and see how it all appears to us then.

6. As they say at the Redskin Camp at Dulles, I am not in the Superbowl yet, but I'm sure in the play-offs.

/s/ John F. Blake

John F. Blake
Deputy Director
for
Administration

P.S.

Of the five individuals with whom I met, two were from DD/I, one each from DD/O, DD/S&T, and the IC Staff.

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